Education and Workforce – Meeting Notes
August 7, 2020 9:00 AM


Audience Attendees: 1

[meeting begins]

• Plan for Phase II
  o Current subcommittees will stay together for next 5 weeks
    ▪ Return to 10-year plan with focus on talent, innovation, and infrastructure
      ▪ Less emphasis in this phase on specific funding resources such as CARES Act dollars
      ▪ A lens for diversity, equality, and inclusion should inform all of these discussion
    o On Sept. 21, committee will reorganize around these new focus areas
      ▪ Committee members should think about which focus area they are interested in working on going forward
  o Upcoming Presentations
    ▪ State Workforce Board, Christopher Quint
    ▪ Maine Business Immigration Coalition, Beth Stickney

• Phase I follow up
  o Governor allocated approximately half ($165M) of the DOE’s funding request
  o Committee will need to monitor federal stimulus situation going forward

• Ideas for Next Phase
  o 10-year strategy emphasizes workforce attraction and retention
    ▪ Live and Work in Maine initiative works on this front
      ▪ Boomerang program directed at Mainers who have moved away
      ▪ Ed will reach out to Live + Work in Maine to request a speaker
    ▪ Housing is a major consideration for attracting talent
    ▪ Tax incentives could help attract out of state talent
      ▪ Difficult comparison with NH’s relatively low taxes
    ▪ Important to consider the challenge of bringing talent statewide, not just Portland metro
    ▪ Internships can help convince trainees to stay and work in Maine
      ▪ Apprenticeship programs can also bolster this effort
    ▪ May be opportunities to alleviate regulatory burden in establishing aquaculture ventures
    ▪ Student debt
      ▪ Little known programs with large benefits for students need to be promoted
      ▪ Jonathan to look into student loan forgiveness programs

[meeting adjourns]